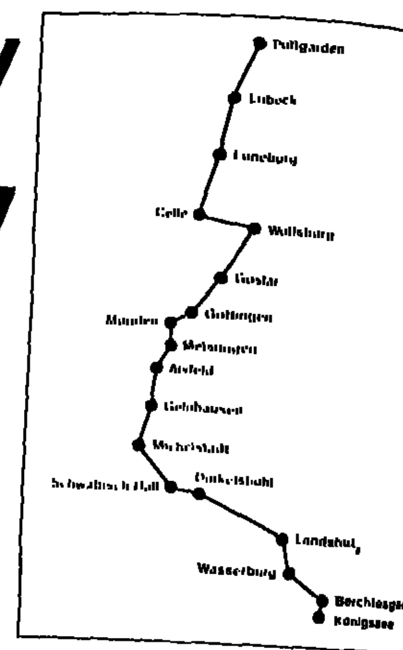
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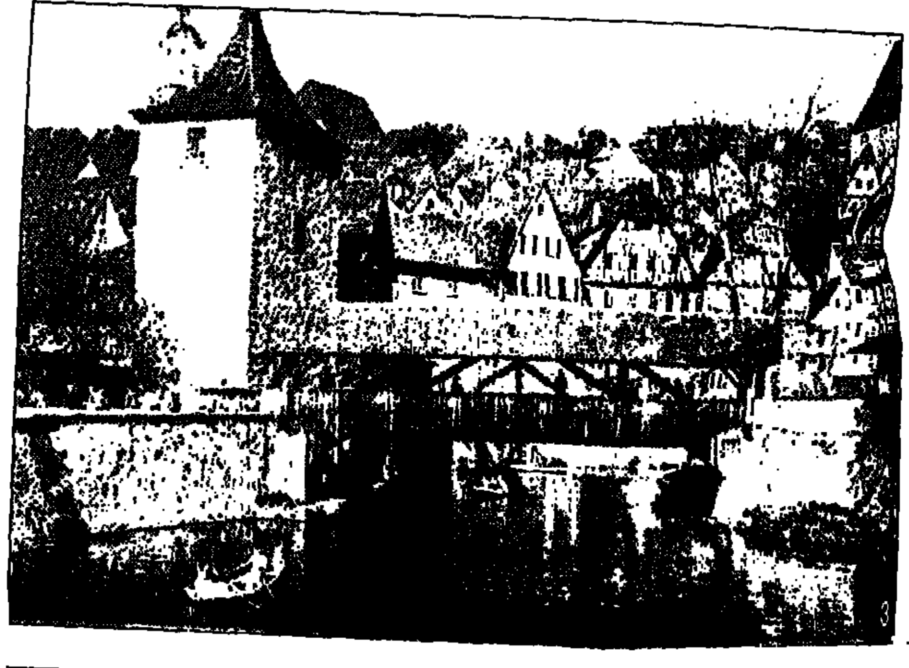


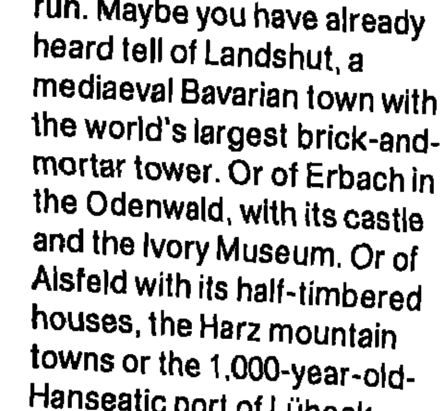


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The German Tribune

Hamburg, 4 October 1987
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Genscher's optimism at UN founded on reality



Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called for even more far-reaching disarmament agreements between the superpowers when he addressed the United Nations general assembly.

He also called for the dismantling of what he called "enemy clichés" and for more cooperation in sectors such as environmental protection.

Yet nothing he had to say was really new. Comparison with earlier speeches of his showed that he had made all these points on more than one occasion at the United Nations.

The difference was that in the past it had been primarily wishful thinking — this time political reality underpinned Herr Genscher's vision of mankind as a community intent on survival.

The agreement on a total, worldwide elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles that President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov plan to sign before the year's end will indeed be a "historic step."

It may not eliminate the nuclear threat to either East or West, especially as it will lead to the dismantling of a mere four per cent or so of the superpowers' total nuclear potential.

But it must be seen in a historic light as being the first major disarmament agreement between the superpowers since the ABM Treaty, which was signed 15 years ago.

And it has only been possible because both sides are definitely and predominantly disposed toward reducing their nuclear stockpiles.

This resolve, underscored by a practical agreement, is what prompted Herr Genscher to make the optimistic remark that an "irresistible development" that paved the way for a better world had [illegible]

A warning must be sounded against excessive enthusiasm. True, the superpowers are resolved for the first time in 15 years to disarm rather than rearm.

Yet it is an equally established fact that good intentions and the ability to put them into political practice are the most reluctant bedfellows. Only if Mr Gorbachov is taken at his word and persuaded to scrap all-powerful Soviet conventional arms too will we know for sure whether security will continue to be assured.

The rapprochement between the superpowers has made one of Bonn's wishes come true and Herr Genscher has every reason for taking a positive view of the breakthrough achieved in the medium-range sector.

But there are no grounds for taking it easy over the disarmament negotiations that must follow this breakthrough.

The Vienna MBFR talks on troop cuts in Central Europe were first mooted about 20 years and have laboriously marked time in the Austrian capital for 14 years. They are a case in point.

They ought to bring back down to earth with a bump everyone who has visions of swift progress on disarmament agreements that serve the cause of mutual security.

In 14 years in Vienna the parties to the MBFR talks have not even agreed on uniform mutual balanced force reduction criteria, let alone on a uniform terminology.

The Soviet Union and the West are unable to agree on what they mean by "balanced."

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 25 September 1987)



Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) with US Secretary of State George Shultz in New York for the UN General Assembly meeting. (Photo: dpa)

Pinochet yields under pressure

Beatriz Brinkmann, a Chilean teacher of German extraction, has assumed symbolic status in the human rights dispute.

In Valdivia, where many ethnic Germans live, she has been released from political custody and deported to West Germany after paying a 300-mark bond.

She had been charged with subversive activity and illegal ownership of weapons as a member of the Communist Party and the public prosecutor had called for her to be sentenced to three years and a day in prison.

This extra day would have meant she would not be entitled to remission of sentence. But the Chilean judiciary is an instrument of dictatorship.

The Chilean authorities released Frau Brinkmann under external pressure and deported her to the Federal Republic.

Bonn Labour Minister and deputy CDU leader Norbert Blüm, SPD Bundestag member Freimut Duve, German diplomats and others were able to visit her in prison.

That at least is possible in General Pinochet's dictatorship, in contrast to a number of other dictatorial regimes.

All were told that she had been subjected to electric shock torture by the CNI, or secret police, after she was arrested in September 1986. She has consistently denied allegations of owning arms.

The Chilean Foreign Ministry took a positive view of the German call for her release in May, but the authorities in Santiago suddenly recalled the "independence" of the military judiciary.

General Pinochet faces renewed accusations of human rights breaches at the UN General Assembly, which is why he has yielded in this case.

He may not have agreed to release political prisoners facing death penalties, but he has shown clemency in individual cases where he can hope to ease external pressure.

Similarly, increasing numbers of left-wing politicians are being allowed to return from exile. They even include former government ministers under President Allende.

So the "strong-arm" tactics demanded of the Chilean dictator by extreme right-wing parties are at times relaxed.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 25 September 1987)

Words of the week are in everybody's vocabulary

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

New thinking are the words of the week in New York. It is Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze's favourite term and was twice mentioned by Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher at the UN General Assembly.

President Reagan may not personally have used the term, but at the crucial juncture in his own appearance at the UN he did demonstrate what might be termed new thinking. The term was mainly used at the UN to describe the uncommonly hopeful prospects of disarmament and in East-West relations.

Mr Shevardnadze said in his speech to the General Assembly that the world was on the brink of major changes. Where the day before only a black wall had been visible, a view into the far distance was now possible.

Mr Shevardnadze's style and appearance in New York impressed the Bonn UN delegation — and many other delegations as well.

He called for the arms race to be replaced by a "concept of adequate stockpiles" and a comprehensive peace system.

For Herr Genscher the Germans have more to do than breathe a sigh of relief at the onset of "new thinking" in East and West.

Their role is that of a motive force for detente. Herr Genscher's call is for the new movement in Ostpolitik to be combined with progress toward European integration.

Even President Reagan engaged in new thinking. Having once condemned the Soviet Union as the realm of evil, he now offered the Russians a competition between systems on the basis of "realistic and stable" methods.

This offer sounded so much like peaceful coexistence and detente that many found an old Reagan speaking new words hard to recognise.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 25 September 1987)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Helsinki accords get a raised profile as missiles deal is agreed on

Now agreement has been reached on medium-range INF missile disarmament, efforts to arrange further negotiations on conventional and tactical nuclear arms reduction within the CSCE, or Helsinki, framework have gained in importance.

Bonn is particularly interested, as it is in helping to ensure that the Vienna follow-up conference, reconvened on 22 September after its summer recess, makes headway in other sectors of European trans-bloc cooperation.

As Bonn's views on this subject differ from America's, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher appealed, in a gesture clearly aimed at the United States in particular, to all parties to the Vienna conference to bear in mind all sectors of the 1975 CSCE Final Act, or Helsinki accords, and their responsibility for the conference's success.

Wasted time

The Washington INF arrangement disproves all who felt the superpowers might yet cross swords over the objectives agreed at the October 1986 Reykjavik summit, arguing that European security interests must be defended.

The Europeans have wasted invaluable months arguing over this point rather than preparing for the new and dynamic development that has arisen in security policy.

Yet it was they who played a major initial role, at the Stockholm conference on confidence-building and disarmament in Europe, in paving the way for this development.

General-Anzeiger

The Stockholm conference both prepared the atmosphere and drew up a model solution on the key feature of a generally applicable verification system.

Agreement on on-the-spot inspection was, as the INF talks have shown, a trailblazing move for all sectors of disarmament.

There have been attempts to belittle the INF terms as agreed, and the 1,567 Soviet and 316 US warheads, plus the Bundeswehr Pershings' six dozen, that are to be scrapped, and their carriers with them undeniably make up a mere three per cent of the entire nuclear potential.

But the key factor is that the INF agreement is the first-ever genuine disarmament move. It relates to a weapon system sector that is extremely dangerous for Europe and its repercussions, as in Stockholm, extend far beyond the INF sector:

- The solution to the verification problem and other important technical details it involves make the INF a pacemaker in the planned 50-per-cent reduction in the superpowers' strategic nuclear arsenals.

It could also pave the way for subsequent negotiations on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe and for the conclusion of a UN convention on a global ban on chemical weapons.

- By both including in the treaty terms and for the first time putting into practice the elimination of a drastic imbalance, the INF agreement will also pave the way for conventional disarmament moves.

It may only be a model for the elimination of a single, but extremely dangerous weapon category, but it could prove invaluable by being applicable to conventional weapon systems too.

- The treaty thus testifies to the earnest of both superpowers in their desire for disarmament. That and its specific contents make it a significant factor in confidence-building that is likely to come into its own in other fields of world affairs, such as joint bids by Washington and Moscow to end the Gulf War.

The Vienna talks between members of Nato and the Warsaw Pact on the mandate of the conferences on conventional disarmament and other confidence-building measures within the CSCE framework are now entering their crucial phase.

They too are likely to benefit from the INF agreement, although the US desire to control further developments and limit European leeway is clearly apparent.

The independent group of neutral and non-aligned states, with a weight that has often been felt to be tiresome, are definitely not to be allowed to bring influence to bear on the disarmament talks.

In contrast to the comprehensive programme embodied in the Final Act at Helsinki the United States has always, and most onesidedly, interpreted the Helsinki accords as a pure human[...] charter.

That enables Washington to [...] guide the CSCE process in keeping [...] its views. A similar approach is [...] ent at the Vienna CSCE follow-up [...] ference, the aim of which is to [...] headway in detente not only in re[...] between the superpowers but on a [...] front throughout Europe.

Every undeniable step forward in [...] man rights is countered with new [...] more far-reaching demands, whe[...] proposals on East-West econ[...] scientific, technological and en[...] mental cooperation are ig[...] blocked or diluted and Europe's [...] riding interest in conventional di[...] ment is dismissed as a minor co[...] tion.

Grand Design

From Herr Genscher's viewpoint th[...] Final Act is Europe's grand design an[...] major prospect for the future, calling fo[...] balanced development in all sectors [...] as to keep all destabilising factors und[...] control.

That is why he appealed to fellow [...] members of the European Communi[...] to act jointly and with determination [...] make up fast for missed opportunities.

That is why he appealed to all [...] CSCE states in Vienna to neglect [...] cooperation sector and not to delay [...] negotiations.

The time, he said, was ripe for resu[...] that for the sake of peace in Euro[...] brought greater security and cooper[...] tion and more tangible human ex[...] ments.

"What interests us," he said, "is wh[...] benefit people derive, not how gove[...] ments portray themselves."

Wolf J. Be[...]

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 21 September [...])

Poland's interest in all things German is more than casual

For Poland, the German Question is fraught with national factors and complexes of its own.

Poland has normalised relations with West Germany ; it makes constant assurances that it is a friend of East Germany.

But it follows with close attention and sometimes with undisguised scepticism all that goes on between the two German states.

The Poles did more than just look on like committed first-nighters in the orchestra stalls at the intra-German political spectacular when Herr Honecker, the East Berlin leader, visited West Germany last month.

They engaged in travel diplomacy of their own to make it clear to East Berlin that they claimed a role along the lines of an active auxiliary director in staging the intra-German show.

Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski visited East Berlin before Herr Honecker, the East Berlin leader, visited Bonn.

And while Herr Honecker was still making headlines in the Saar and in Munich, influential Polish politbureau member and expert on German affairs Josef Czyrek visited the East German capital.

Only a few days after Herr Honecker's spectacular visit to the West the Polish leader, Mr Jaruzelski, arrived in East Berlin to learn at first hand how East Germany assessed the situation.

It is no coincidence that these close contacts between Poland and East Germany formed a framework within which the intra-German summit was held. Frameworks serve the purpose of setting limits.

Warsaw makes no bones about the sole aim of its policy toward Germany being one of looking after Polish national interests.

There can have been no coincidence about Herr Honecker having paid political obeisance to Polish sensitivities by referring to the Oder-Neisse border as a model for better arrangements on the intra-German border.

Despite dubious aspects of this comparison he was clearly keen to flatter Poland and demonstrate East Germany's consideration for its eastern neighbour.

Will such verbal gestures be enough for Warsaw, which this time, unlike summer 1984, on a previous occasion when Herr Honecker was due to visit the Federal Republic, placed no unmistakable obstacles in the visit's way.

Subsequent mention was merely made of the "legal phraseology" of the commitment to reunification embodied in Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution.

It was noted sotto voce in Warsaw that in 1984 Poland and Czechoslovakia had joined forces to prevent the intra-German summit on grounds of pact interests.

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

This time such heavy artillery was not trained on the West, but there was no mistaking a degree of official sceptism.

That in itself is hardly surprising inasmuch as the fundamental political factors are unchanged, and the Polish [...] dia were much more guarded than, say, their Soviet counterparts in their accompaniment to Herr Honecker's visit to Bonn.

The Polish Party newspaper *Trybuna Ludu* took the precaution of reminding the East German leader that his visit had only been possible as a result of the "correct and consistent policy pursued by all the socialist states."

Bloc discipline had laid the ground for inviolability of borders. In return the German workers' and peasants' state was expected to demonstrate eternal solidarity with the socialist camp.

For Poland the intra-German summit would only make positive sense if it were to contribute toward consolidation of the post-war status quo in Europe and thus help to end all conceivable [...] maining doubts about Poland's wes[...] border, the Oder-Neisse line.

In Polish eyes any attempt to stre[...] then intra-German ties in the direc[...] of even the appearance of the Germ[...] Question still being open would jeopa[...] dise would be a threat to the peace [...] Europe.

In relations between Poland and [...] GDR there is undoubtedly the sens[...] issue of who plays second fiddle to [...] Soviet Union in the the socialist [...] but the overriding fact remains th[...] process of intra-German normalis[...] forms part of a wider framework [...] the East as in the West.

Any extension to the leeway open [...] the two German states will continue [...] be subject to limitations [...] dences they cannot waive singlehand[...] ly. So there is no room for illusion.

Harry Schleiche[...]

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 18 September [...])

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Greens' post-mortem draws a round of yawns

Two Oldenburg senior school students who went to a Greens' conference called following electoral setbacks in Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein found the proceedings excruciatingly boring.

They decided that, if this is what the Greens were all about, they would not bother coming again.

They had turned up with high expectations that the party of ecologists which opposes nuclear energy would get to grips with its recent problems.

There were equally high expectations among many of the 650 delegates and many other members of the public.

Would the seven-year-old party persevere, they wondered, in self-immolation, in the bitter parry and thrust of debate and in infighting between its realist and fundamentalist wings after its electoral setbacks in Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein?

No. Instead of burning the midnight oil and risking a debate on fundamental issues, proceedings were aimed from the outset in a less controversial direction.

There was to be three hours of fundamental debate — and no more. And the debate was so quiet and objective, at times riding a trough of exhaustion and resignation, that the two students were not the only ones to be bored to death.

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

"We must first regain interest in ourselves," one speaker said, while another warned against "us constantly rushing around with a diviner's rod in a quest for traitors in our own ranks."

Mention was made of the lack of a common programme with which realists and fundamentalists would be equally at ease, and of the "feeble compromise" the Greens approved at last year's Nuremberg conference for the general election.

The euphoria and sense of new departure that accompanied the early years, just after the party was founded, are now over for good.

"The system of what used to be staid and stick-in-the-mud established parties is more flexible than we imagine," a realist speaker said. "In ceasing to deal with them we ourselves have come to pale in significance."

The impression the Oldenburg conference conveyed was that of the Greens for the most part being pale but calm and collected. The atmosphere resembled that of a full-scale crisis staff session.

Joschka Fischer was not pilloried as expected for having said in a newspaper interview that he felt an immediate phase-out of atomic energy was unrealistic.

In a personal statement the former Hesse Environment Minister merely said he felt a "fast phase-out" was "not feasible at present."

Delegates expressed little more than mild dissatisfaction at the holding of separate press conference on the Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein election results by the Greens' national executive committee and the parliamentary board of the Greens in the Bonn Bundestag.

The debate on setting up a party-political foundation sounded a note of moderation, not to say ennui.

How were delegates to show commitment on an issue billed as "the most important since the decision to set up the Greens as a political party" when there were fears of a terminal decline setting in in the party?

The Greens already have an uneasy conscience about using government money, about DM60m, to finance their women's, ecology and Third World projects.

What is more, the Greens appealed to the Federal Constitutional Court in 1983, challenging blanket grants to party-political foundations (the court ruled that the grants were constitutional).

So any foundation the Greens were to set up would have to comply with most exacting standards. It would need to be as independent of the party as possible, to be clear and above-board about its finances and expenditure and to cover all issues and project sectors.

After vociferous twisting and turning, and countless objections raised in the debate, a decision was eventually reached in principle to set up a foundation.

In the end delegates even agreed that the model (of the four proposed) on which they could all agree must be approved by a two-thirds majority.

The models on which a vote was taken were:

- the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the most detailed proposal drawn up by a panel including "independent personalities;"
- a decentralised system of foundations for individual *Länder;*
- a "movement model" based on social protest and action groups
- and a "women's foundation" in which women were to hold the purse-strings and concentrate mainly on emancipatory projects.

The voting marathon went ahead along lines customary among the Greens. The initial tenor of opinion after a first, but indecisive straight fight seemed to favour a decentralised solution, but what then?

Supporters of the Böll Foundation withdrew their motion, as did the women's group theirs, and an hour after the conference was originally scheduled to end the *Länder* foundation proposal was also withdrawn.

Shortly beforehand a conference majority had entrusted a commission with clarifying details of setting up a foundation. Yet the issue the Oldenburg conference was convened to discuss was shelved until the next gathering.

The power struggle over a Green party-political foundation ended, like all power struggles in the party, where it began: with the failure of the two wings, ideological unyielding but more confused than ever, to be reconciled.

Dagmar Deckstein

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 21 September 1987)

Land Premier resigns over smear-campaign charges

Uwe Barschel, the Schleswig-Holstein Premier, has resigned following allegations in the magazine, *Der Spiegel,* that a former publicity man on his Christian Democrat campaign team had been ordered to dig up information for a smear campaign against the Social Democrat leader in the election last month, Björn Engholm. The Social Democrats emerged as the biggest single party in the election but the CDU was in a position to carry on governing with the support of the Free Democrats and the sole representative of another minority party. But what will happen now is not known.

Schleswig-Holstein Premier Uwe Barschel's resignation hardly came as a surprise. It was an admission not of personal guilt but of political responsibility in an affair which is certain to take months before the parliamentary and court aspects are cleared up.

Dr Barschel has given an assurance, and it rings true, that he would have been prepared to resign earlier but hesitated in full agreement with his party, the Christian Democrats.

The state assembly election results left the CDU with a potential coalition majority of one in Schleswig-Holstein, and his resignation could lead to the party losing its ability to govern.

That could still happen. The crucial issue in the days and weeks ahead will be whether the CDU aims at a solution on the basis of the 13 September election results or seeks salvation in fresh elections.

The Christian Democrats have at least been relieved of the burden of their local leader possibly succumbing to gradual wear and tear under the pressure of protracted Watergate-style investigations.

They have regained the momentum of action, although no-one can say for sure how they will now fare.

Even if they agree to coalition terms with the Free Democrats they will still not command a majority in the state assembly, merely level-pegging with the Opposition, or so it would seem.

The Social Democrats hope fresh elections would sweep them into power. The Christian Democrats must fear that their moderate losses in mid-September could be followed by a much more crushing defeat at the polls if fresh elections were called.

The Free Democrats barely succeeded in polling the five per cent they needed to get back into the state assembly.

Having dithered between cooperation with the CDU and the personal slight of refusing to pose for Press photographers alongside Herr Barschel at coalition talks, they can do no more than guess how they might fare in fresh elections.

Only a strong local leader, such as Bonn Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg, could boost the CDU's confidence, yet as *Land* leader of the Christian Democrats he must share the blame for dirty tricks during the campaign.

Dr Stoltenberg's potential role poses national, not just local problems. If he were to return to Kiel at the moment he ought to be submitting proposals on how to finance his tax reform package, the Bonn government might find itself in a difficult position.

Chancellor Kohl and the CDU would be subjected to even stronger pressure by their coalition allies the CSU and the FDP. That was a poor starting-point for the Chancellor's meeting with the CSU leader, Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss, who already sees the CDU as to blame for the decline in the Bonn coalition's electoral fortunes.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 26 September 1987)

Huge spending in poll by extreme right

A member of the right-wing extremist *Deutsche Volksunion,* or German People's Union, won its single seat in the Bremen state assembly after a huge spending campaign estimated to have cost it between two and three million marks [...] en, or over five per cent in Bremen's neighbouring town further up the River Weser (it got only 3 per cent overall, but that didn't matter under this local application of the five-per-cent poll regulation.)

Two DVU members have also been elected to the Bremerhaven city council. Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, Free Democrats and Greens all say this is appalling.

The leading DVU candidate in Bremerhaven and prospective state assemblyman, a 61-year-old shipbuilding engineer called Hans Altermann, was not available to answer telephone inquiries on the day after the polls.

Dieter Klink, SPD president of the Bremen assembly says Herr Altermann will be very much out on a limb in relations with other parties.

Frankfurter Neue Presse

His parliamentary options would be limited, as an individual member could neither submit written questions to the Senate nor apply for an emergency hearing. He could merely table motions.

The DVU is opposed to local government franchise for foreign residents and advocates deportation of criminal foreigners and bogus applicants for political asylum.

Given equal qualifications, German job applicants must be given preference over non-Germans. As DVU leaflets proclaimed: "Hospitality is all well and good, but Germany must stay German!"

Instead of spending billions on abuse of asylum application provisions, the authorities should spend the money on Germans in difficulty through no fault of their own."

The stirring DVU slogan (or so its supporters would like to feel) is: "Spend German Money on German Tasks."

During the election campaign the party held no public meetings but it spent an estimated DM2m to DM3m on election propaganda, or over twice as much as all other parties combined.

It campaigned as the *Liste D* ("D" for "Deutschland"), an election alliance of the DVU and National Democrats formed in Munich last spring.

The DVU, founded in Munich in 1971, is considered a catchment basin for former NPD supporters.

In its ideological orientation it is largely agreed with the NPD, says the

Continued on page 12

■ DEFENCE

Row over plan to increase length of civil alternative to conscription

A total of 72,000 people are serving 20 months of civilian service as an alternative to 15 months of conscription. Plans have been drawn up to increase the civilian alternative to 24 months and military service to 18 in 1990. It is a controversial move.

Peter Hintze, the Bonn government commissioner for conscientious objectors who do social work rather than military service, says the proposed extension of the civil alternative is a "crucial contribution toward domestic peace."

Objectors don't agree. Manfred Wagner, who speaks for an organisation representing the interests of the 72,000 *Zivis*, as they are called, dismisses this as "laughable."

Many feel the longer civilian period amounts to a declaration of war.

The extension is to be made in return for a simplification of conscientious objection procedures.

Herr Wagner feels the commissioner's talk of peace is cynical because pressure of work on *Zivis*, as conscript social workers are known, is steadily increasing.

Less and less attention is paid to the motivation that prompts people to object to military service. Strike action and protest moves are one outcome, an increasing number of transfer applications another.

This category of social work is accompanied by severe stress — and a suicide rate much higher than among servicemen.

Hintze has little inclination to go into such problems. When he has anything to say on the subject, as at a Loccum Protestant Academy conference on "Civil Service in the Throes of Change," he tends to opt for simplicity and harmony.

Neither qualitatively nor quantitatively is any such change in the offing, he says. He reassures potential employers that there will continue to be at least 50,000 *Zivis* a year until the end of the century.

He says this figure is definite, irrespective of low birth rates in the 1970s and 1980s or of longer service.

He also claims that: "Civil service is so arranged to do justice to conscripts' individual skills and interests."

More critical observers say this aspect is a key reason why young volunteer social workers lose all motivation after seven or eight months as conscript makeweights.

They cease to be regarded as individuals with a right to be taken seriously. They are no longer regarded as conscientious objectors but as cheap hired labour.

They are increasingly put to work in the toughest, marginal areas of social work, such as looking after wheelchair-bound patients, and themselves steadily isolated on the outskirts of society.

No-one who has come straight from school and not learnt the trade can possibly hope to stand the strain of work of this kind for longer than a year or so.

As conscientious objectors, says Rev. Ulrich Finckh, *Zivis* want to do something for peace, with the emphasis on international, national and social peace service, Third World work, education activity, youth work and environmental protection.

They seldom have an opportunity of doing so and are often prohibited from working in this sector, he says. They are not allowed to tell others that they are conscientious objectors and are segregated from non-handicapped children as though they were lepers.

Only one stone is missing from the mosaic of disrespect that makes social service a punishment posting.

The final school year is to be cut short to enable conscripts to serve the longer period in the Bundeswehr without forfeiting a college semester, whereas *Zivis* stand to forfeit an entire year.

Employers see them mainly as low-cost labour. They are bound to, Finckh says. *Zivis* cut manpower and other costs.

Protestant Church moves were at one stage made to consider setting up a "social peace service" as an independent alternative to military service.

It was to concentrate on peace work, reconciliation and international understanding and enable staff to think their lives and objectives over during their service period.

These ideas have been largely abandoned, due to political pressure and to everyday routine.

What is left, says Gerhard Hoffmann of the Protestant Church social services department in Hessen-Nassau, is the reserve army of conscript social workers.

Their role is to bridge the gap between a growing need for social work to cater for the old, the sick and the handicapped and the constraints of government economies.

Legally, the employment of *Zivis* is supposed to be "neutral" in its effect on the labour market.

If this requirement were taken seriously, they ought only to be employed, in social work, in addition to qualified staff to improve the quality of life for the people they help to look after.

In reality, Hoffmann says, "civil" service is increasingly degraded to "labour" service, with conscripts doing regular jobs in social work and taking the place of trained social workers.

There is no longer a shortage of skilled social workers. Unemployment, Finckh says, is a serious problem among social workers, nurses and even doctors.

Every *Zivi* who is employed in these sectors does more trained staff out of a job and prevents them from providing the skilled service they are in a position to give.

No-one stops to consider whether financing both *Zivis* and unemployed social workers makes economic sense. From the individual employer's viewpoint it is clearly lucrative. But that is as far as it goes.

Herr Hintze sees no problem here either. "The efficacy of our social services," he says, "is not determined [by] the civil service."

Bremen sociologist Jürgen Bland[ow] has taken a closer look at the situa[tion] investigating the work of *Zivis* in Bre[men].

The 525 *Zivis* in welfare service [em]ployment were found to accou[nt for] roughly 10 per cent of overall staff [man-]hours, and 18.8 per cent of the ho[urs] logged by full-time staff.

"Civil service" had long ceased to [be] an extra in many sectors. It was an inte[gral] part of a system that in many re[spects] would cease to function if they were no longer available.

In work with the handicapped *Zi[vis]* accounted for 23 per cent of ma[n-]hours, and 96 per cent of individu[al] care of the seriously handicapped. [..] per cent of ambulance and taxi ser[vices] for the handicapped.

Zivis log 91 per cent of mobile ser[]vice man-hours, 66 per cent of meals o[n] wheels and 52 per cent of ambulanc[e] work.

Blandow calculated the cash saving on the basis of an unskilled *Zivi* man-hour costing DM15, as against DM2[..] for an hour's work by a skilled person.

The 525 Bremen *Zivis* saved DM17[..] a year, while the 72,000 Zivis all over the country saved a massive DM2.3bn-plus.

Professor Blandow says the very leas[t] that must be done is to spend severa[l] months training *Zivis* for special wo[rk] and to provide in-service training there-after.

But that seems out of the question [..] present the state is not even in a pos[i]tion to provide the statutory introducto[]ry courses for *Zivis*. Herr Hintze sa[ys] they are available for only one in two and that, for the foreseeable future, that.

Employers have no interest in [..]ing them for any length of time, a[nd] officials in charge of the service evid[ent]ly take a dim view of in-service training.

Herr Hintze may say he feels it is [ex]tremely important, but the fact is th[at] the five hours a week for "social pea[ce] service" study has been cut to two, [the] inference being that two hours a week t[o] reflect on your work is ample.

Zivis are viewed with increasing dis[]satisfaction by the trade unions who object to the hiring of cut-price un[]skilled staff when trained men and women are out of work.

Alfred Lorenz, works councillor at [a] Bremen hospital, says:

"There is no regulation requiring ho[s]pitals to economise by hiring *Zivis*. R[e]gular staff can do everything they [..] just as well, and as a rule better [..] hospital ought to budget accordingly for its wage costs."

Works councils in Bremen's five lo[cal] authority hospitals and a lone ch[..] hospital aim to dispense with the [ser]vices of the present 150 *Zivis*. Th[..] will be allowed to serve their time [..] approval for replacements will be [with]held.

Herr Lorenz does not mean to [..] that the work *Zivis* do in hospitals is [su]perfluous; anything but. Yet there is surely a difference between conscripts working under orders and trained hos[]pital staff working under normal con[di]tions.

The Bremen debate is far from be[ing] wide of the mark. The Marburg bra[nch] of the Red Cross last year provided

Continued on page 7

Frankfurter Rundschau

■ PERSPECTIVE

Rumania cashes in by exporting ethnic German minority to the West

Breeding Germans is more profitable than breeding pigs, Rumanian officials cynically say about President Ceausescu's emigration policy.

Ethnic German migrants earn more hard currency in deutschemarks per head than the best pork bellies, they say.

There is more than a grain of truth in this joke about Rumania's dwindling German minority, the Siebenbürgen Saxons and the Banat Swabians.

Bonn pays a capitation fee of DM8,000 to DM10,000 for each of the 11,000-14,000 ethnic Germans a year who migrate to the Federal Republic.

Most emigrate to West Germany, a few to Austria. They are part of a steady exodus of ethnic Germans from areas where they and their forebears have lived for 800 years.

At this rate virtually no native German-speakers will be left in Siebenbürgen or Banat by the end of the century.

President Ceausescu thus seems to be well on his toward achieving his objective of transforming Rumania into a single-nation state, although he may find the two million ethnic Hungarians a tougher nut to crack.

Ethnic Hungarians, with powerful official backing from neighbouring Hungary, are stubbornly struggling to preserve their national identity.

Ethnic Germans have long abandoned hope. Most of them have only one objective: to see the back of Rumania, shaken by one economic crisis after another, as soon as possible — and for good.

Despite Bonn's cash payments many of them find it far from easy to get out. A 60-year-old woman set fire to herself in protest outside the German embassy in Bucharest only a few weeks ago.

Maria Mesmer, prevented by the Rumanian police from even setting foot in the German embassy, poured a can of petrol over herself, set fire to it and died before anyone could rush to her assistance.

She evidently sought to draw attention to the inhuman conditions suffered by ethnic Germans who apply to corrupt officials for exit visas.

Before issuing passports the authorities demand from ethnic Germans an extra, private ransom payment equivalent to between DM5,000 and DM10,000.

Most cannot possibly raise this kind of money, not even by selling everything they own — their home, their farm, their goods and chattels.

Unless relatives who have already migrated to the West are able to lend a helping hand they often have to wait 10 to 15 years before being issued with travel documents.

Throughout this waiting-period they suffer endless official humiliation, losing their jobs for a start. And once they have the documents they are only allowed to take with them 70kg of personal effects, wedding rings and inexpensive jewellery.

They leave behind their home, their farm, the family and a cultural heritage dating back centuries that then falls foul of Rumanian assimilation.

That was roughly what befell Maria Mesmer. Her two children were allowed to leave in 1983, after a long wait, but she was refused permission.

The official reason was that in 1973 she was found guilty by a court in Orsova of setting fire to a works barracks and fined 114,171 lei.

She constantly claimed she was innocent but the authorities insisted she must pay the fine, plus an extra private ransom payment, before being issued with a passport for which she had applied nearly 10 years earlier.

As she stood no chance of being able to pay the fine from her modest worker's earnings she planned to present President Ceausescu with a petition when he visited her home town in 1978. She was arrested and beaten up by his bodyguards.

The associations of Siebenbürgen Saxons and Banat Swabians in the Federal Republic have submitted to the authorities in Bonn and Vienna a memorandum on the treatment by Bucharest of would-be migrants and on the situation of the ethnic German minority in Rumania.

The authorities were called on to bring the situation in Siebenbürgen and Banat to the attention of the Helsinki follow-up conference in Vienna.

Visa applications are said to have been made by 140,000 ethnic Germans in the two areas, leaving a remainder who are in no real position to resist Rumanian pressure to assimilate.

Rumanian diplomats sound a note of surprise. "We let everyone leave to join their families, not just Germans," they say, adding that constitutional guarantees protect minority rights.

In practice, it is another matter, as spectacular "denationalisation" measures show. German-language teaching has been restricted, being limited in many schools to language lessons.

German-speaking teachers are assigned to Rumanian-speaking classes and vice-versa.

The historic appearance of former German communities is systematically destroyed by demolishing entire streets and defacing them with high-rise housing.

So it is hardly surprising that "Saxons" and "Swabians" are no longer keen on the old country. Besides, as one migrant inevitably attracts the next, there is a steadily growing vacuum that is filled by ethnic Rumanians.

This was demonstrated at the last confirmation classes held at the



Schwarze Kirche in Kronstadt, Siebenbürgen.

Only five of the 18 children had all-German parents (although some were children of mixed marriages).

So classes were partly held in Rumanian — for the first time ever.

Another typical instance of Rumanian assimilation is the fate of Wurmloch, a large rural district in Siebenbürgen that was all-German only a few years ago.

The local clergyman, a rugged German with duelling scars who, like nearly all fit Siebenbürgen Saxons, had served in the Prinz Eugen SS division, lamented that Wurmloch had no future.

The entire community had applied, or was planning to apply, for visas to migrate to the Federal Republic, he complained. Sooner or later they will all have left.

Erich Grolig

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 4 September 1987)

Glasnost has not yet reached out to the forbidden city

The West Berlin Intourist agency wants to sell holidays in the Soviet Union in the spirit of *glasnost* and perestroika.

"Get to know the Soviet Union, the country and the people. Talk with them. Experience *glasnost* and *perestroika* at first hand," potential tourists are told.

The 1988 brochure features city tours to Moscow and Leningrad, including a night out at the Bolshoi, tours by Trans-Siberian Express and cross-country skiing on Lake Baikal.

But no mention is made of inclusive tours to the westernmost city in the Soviet Union, Kaliningrad, formerly Königsberg, the East Prussian capital.

Over 40 years after the war the Soviet government still limits access to the city where lights went out for German inhabitants on 9 April 1945.

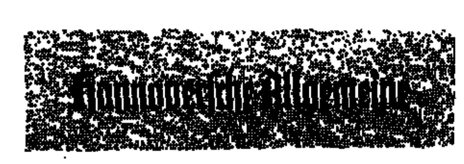
Over 100,000 people were still in the city when the Red Army arrived, plundering, raping and killing for days. Lev Kopolev recalls the occasion in his book *Aufbewahren für alle Zeit* (Recorded for Posterity).

Since 1947 not a single German has lived in the city, which was renamed Kaliningrad, after a former Soviet head of state, on 4 July 1946.

The erstwhile Königsberg, a city famous for its Bärenfang honey liqueur, its marzipan, its Dominsel city centre and its distinctive people speaking distinctive dialect German, ceased to exist.

For Germans everywhere, regardless which part of Germany they come from, Königsberg is still first and foremost a forbidden city.

Only three Germans are still permitted within its walls, and then only on pedestals: statues of Kant, Schiller and Thälmann.



The citizens of Kaliningrad even named an extensive public park after Ernst ("Teddy") Thälmann, the pre-war leader of the German Communist Party.

Since the Red Army arrived not a [..] foot in the northern, Soviet sector of what used to be East Prussia.

Königsberg and environs has been out of bounds for German businessmen and sailors, for journalists and even, say, for East German Party officials.

No-one has been allowed to visit the grave of Enlightenment philosopher Immanuel Kant. No-one has been allowed to take a dip in the chilly Baltic on the Amber Coast at Pillau.

Now and then, by roundabout ways, foreign nationals have occasionally managed to visit the city.

Doing so illegally is a risky business even though Aeroflot Ilyushins and Tupolevs fly there daily and fine roads run down the Baltic coast to the city.

But city maps are Kaliningrad are still not printed — on grounds of security. Local people have to make do with a single sheet of paper containing a map of the city centre.

Non-Soviet citizens stand no chance of getting through the passport checks, still less Germans keen to revisit the city of their childhood.

Those who have made the attempt usually travel by rail. The Amber Express runs daily from Moscow to Kaliningrad, and there are no passport checks at railway stations (as opposed to airports).

The authorities probably imagine no foreigner would take the trouble of an 18-hour journey by wide-gauge Soviet train, with a total ban on drinking and smoking in the compartment.

That isn't to say that the carriages of the Amber Express are uncomfortable. They were made in the GDR.

Railway time is Moscow time. There are two clocks at Kaliningrad station: one shows local time, the other Moscow time.

If nostalgic Germans were allowed to visit the city they would probably not recognise it. It was largely destroyed, either during the war or in post-war demolition.

It has also been transformed by ornamental stucco facades, by corrugated iron roofing in place of tiles and by coats of poor-quality paint, mainly in pastel shades of blue, yellow and pink.

Redbrick walls have also been painted over, totally changing their outward appearance, not to say ruining their architectural character.

Where churches once stood, such as the Holy Trinity, near the main station, Soviet planners have long built a cinema, the October, and a Gagarin Park with water-spouting fountains.

A gigantic flyover taking traffic past the former stock exchange, now a seamen's cultural centre, to the Hotel Kaliningrad, a soulless modern building, calls to mind similar West German civil engineering feats of the 1960s.

The officials who designed this concrete monster clearly had no interest in pedestrians. There are no pedestrian crossings and Moskvitch, Zhiguli and Dniepr drivers seem to play cat and mouse with people on foot.

In the 1960s Soviet bulldozers flattened the ruins of Königsberg Castle, which could well have been restored. Kaliningrad engineers are still trying to build a skyscraper on the site.

Construction work on what is planned as a town hall, or House of the City Soviet, has marked time for three years. Stress analysis has posed problems.

Work is to be resumed on a limited scale this autumn. Rumour has it that the building is now to be a hotel.

Might that mean Kaliningrad will soon have sufficient hotel accommodation to allow 300,000 ethnic German survivors of East Prussia to revisit the city where they were born and bred?

Ulf Würfeler

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 September 1987)

■ BUSINESS

Increased leisure time fuels boom in board games

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Just in case, Johann Rüttinger and his brother filled their car tank before heading off for the casino in Salzburg.

Just in case, each man left his cheque-book at home and instead took along 300 marks in cash.

Their luck held — for fully half an hour. Then they drove home again, penniless.

The drive gave Rüttinger, a graphic artist from Nuremberg, time to ponder: the thoughts led him to draw up for a board game featuring the glittering world of casinos. A board games maker liked the idea — and soon Las Vegas came on to the market.

A slightly altered version of his game was one of the exhibits of a British manufacturer at Spiel 87, an international board games congress in Essen.

The 40-year-old Rüttingen is now one of the established figures in the games business, which is going through a boom which seems to have no end.

Playing board games has become trendy again for adults. It used to be Monopoly and other games which reflected either the commercial or social aspirations predominant in society. Today, that is changing a little, and there are environment-oriented games on sale.

The major problem is still keeping players' competitive urges pepped up, and all the successful games riding the boom are able to provide both excitement and entertainment.

The influences of science fiction and other types of literary fantasy are easy to see in the ever-cleverer forms of dénouement. Compared with this, the original idea is merely the basis for a series of variations.

The same applies to games known as "strategy games." In 10,000 German living rooms, "Mr X" is hunted. He is a gangster who time and time again succeeds in eluding the police. The chase involves Scotland Yard on the hunt through the streets of London.

Playing roles is now the thing so that plastic or wooden pieces or figures are going out of fashion and the murderer and the detective are played by the players.

The living room becomes the scene of the crime. Instead of inviting friends to a television evening or to look at slides, they are now invited to a crime party with the inspiring handle of "Night Flight to Death."

The invitation cards which tell guests which role they are to play, come with the game. There is even a cassette of taped music so the right atmosphere can be captured. It is all very simple: a certain Dr Schäfer has fallen from a Zeppelin and the murderer is wanted — it is, of course, one of the guests.

Each round ends with a bout of probing questioning so that among the Baroness Adele von Schwarzenfels, the happy-go-lucky actress Mitzi Marzini, the unsuccessful artist Josef Pawlicek and five others, the pieces are gradually put together until the identity of the murderer is eventually discovered.

It is said that the game can take up the entire night. But a note of warning: "Night Flight to Death" is a once-only game. When it is over, it goes into the rubbish bin.

The fascination of role playing has even been recognised by the federal centre of political education which wants to make democracy something that the less politically minded young people want to take part in.

The attraction of cerebral involvement is clear: but that doesn't mean that the four basic components of board games, the dice, the board itself, figures and cards, are no longer used. The dice especially remains the only way younger players have a chance of winning.

Of course, Rüttinger, as a graphic artist, is concerned with the form and appearance of his games. The first of his trilogy of games called the The Three Magicians was in 1985 awarded the Game of the Year award.

His fantastic world of magicians, conjurors and children of kings can imbue players with a feeling of identification — almost as in "Night Flight to Death."

Observers at Essen say that after a few minutes, players don't refer to each other by name. Instead they name the person by his or her role — robber, monk or princess.

What makes these games so fascinating? Rosemarie Geu, press-spokesperson for the congress, suspects that for many people it is the chance of taking part in the world of fairy tales.

In Essen, nothing was merely laid out for display or exhibited. Games were simply played and played and played. There is obviously no lack of ideas. Several years ago when a group of pensioners was asked how many board games they knew, they came up with 600 names.



Las Vegas comes to the living room. (Photo: Rudolf Kreitz)

At this congress, about 85 originators showed off a total of 207 new games. A good dozen of them were thought up by Rüttinger. With a cut of 6 per cent of the retail price, he admits candidly to having an interest in sales.

The ideas for his games come from experiences in life. But first he tests the games out on his own children. He says children are quick to find weak spots.

There is enough stimulation where he and his family lives, in a 200-year-old converted mill. There is plenty of animal life and vegetable life and environmental aspects to provide inspiration.

A game called "Mensch ärgere Dich nicht" first came out 75 years ago and it has remained the best seller of all board games in Germany. But few people have any idea of who invented it and under what circumstances.

Today things have changed. Rüttinger's games and those of his contemporaries have clearly marked on the packaging who thought up the ideas and the rules.

But often, a single person is not responsible. Peter Gross, product manager of one of the market leaders, says some games were developed by a whole team.

He says it is easy to spend three quarters of a year and 150,000 mark in development.

Now there is even a spoon-bending game, a sort of Uri Geller game called Magic Spoon which depends on dexterity.

A plastic fist holds a spoon which is capable of bending. Children are meant to learn to get the idea and feel of weight by placing discs of various weight into the spoon until it bends.

Frau Geu likes telling the story of Trevor Pepperell, from Britain, who thought up a game about money while he was in jail. The former millionaire who brought his financial institute to ruin used his experience to good advantage and tested his invention out on a specialist group: 500 of his fellow inmates.

The industry says that almost all games are suitable for everybody from six to 99 years of age.

But investigations have revealed that in fact that many of these board games have a dubious sort of attraction that gets the better of many adults. Even when there is meant to be an element of togetherness, in most instances there is only one winner.

Everyone wants to be the best, the fastest, the cleverest. Anyone who does not want to subjugate himself or herself to the rules and deliberately allows a partner to win is a spoiler; a person who robs the game of its fascination.

The main reason why more adults are playing more board games is undoubtedly because people now have more leisure time.

In the last 30 years, leisure time has doubled, and not everybody wants to sit in front of television the whole time.

Naturally, Johann Rüttinger already has an idea for his next game. The inspiration came from his romantic old mill. It deals with the extra-terrestrial and is called Green Men Who Come To Earth.

Rudolf Kreitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 21 September 1987)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Solar energy mooted as The Ultimate Solution

DIE WELT

Solar energy is the energy of the future and not just an energy alternative. This was the message at a congress held by ISES, the International Solar Energy Society, in Hamburg.

The 1,600 participants spent six days reviewing the latest in solar engineering, from wind and water power to heat pumps and biomass converters.

The next congress is to be held in Kobe, Japan, in two years.

Congress chairman Horst Hörster said: "The solar radiation that reaches the Earth is about 3,000 times more energy than we need. Two and a half hours of sunlight are enough to meet the world's total annual energy requirements."

Solar energy is an opportunity of providing low-cost decentralised power supplies in developing countries that lack costly power grid infrastructure.

State secretary Maheshwar Dayal of India was overwhelmed by the response to his report on the extent to which solar energy has been harnessed in his country.

There are, he said, about 850,000 *gobar* biogas generators and several million simple solar-powered stoves in India, with solar cell equipment installed [illegible]

"Experience in India has confirmed," he said, "that solar technology is capable of solving the most pressing energy problem in rural areas, the lack of fuel."

By the year 2001 India plans to meet 20 per cent of its energy needs from renewable sources.

Small- and smallest-scale generators based on wind, biomass and solar energy will make a major contribution of 15,000 megawatts toward this transformation.

Photovoltaics, or direct conversion of light into power by means of semiconductors, has lately hit the headlines.

Even if economic use of the technique is a distant prospect, it has a decided advantage, Hörster says:

"The crucial factor is that this form of energy is in harmony with nature, imposing no burden whatever on the environment. I feel it may be the only form of energy of which this can be said."

The Sun shines long enough and with sufficient power even in industrialised countries, which for the most part are to be found in temperate zones with strictly limited hours of sunshine. What matters is to harness it properly.

"We must set aside inflexible forms of large-scale technological applications and concentrate on decentralised production and use," he says.

Passive use of solar energy by means of advanced solar architecture could well play a leading role in economising on the use of conventional fuels.

It would also make a substantial contribution toward easing the burden on our environment.

Passive use of solar energy can save up to 50 per cent of the power needed for heating, and as heating accounts for 40 per cent of power consumption, the potential for economising is enormous.

Germany's first solar-powered boat, being demonstrated in Hamburg, uses 32 solar cells. It can travel at 8 kilometres an hour. It's a mere snip if you have 40,000 marks to spare. (Photo: Bernd Beutner)

Passive solar architecture includes deliberate "suntraps," such as south-facing plate glass, conservatories and insulation and nocturnal cover in other directions.

The development of special glass that either reflects or absorbs sunlight depending on the angle opens up further possibilities.

A highlight of the Hamburg congress was a special sunblind developed by the Fraunhofer Solar Energy Systems Institute, Freiburg.

Specially coated, in summer it reflects the sunlight, while in winter it absorbs it and reflects it indoors at night.

Trials of the new blinds in an office building with single glazing have been found to halve heating costs.

Lutz Bloos

(Die Welt, Bonn, 19 September 1987)

Vision of a Europe linked by underground train network

Europe will one day be linked by a network of electromagnet trains running underground: that at least is the view of industrialist and pioneer aviator Ludwig Bölkow.

Outlining his ideas at the first European transport forum, in Munich, he said that the fuel of the future is electrolytically produced solar hydrogen, not methanol or coal gas.

Bölkow, whose company is now part of the Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm group, says cars, a major cause of pollution, must not be allowed to run on fossil fuels, which are both expensive and environmentally dangerous.

He wants to see combustion engines converted to hydrogen, his favourite fuel. He is convinced a political decision must be taken to embark on hydrogen power research as a prerequisite of economic and technological progress.

Bölkow admits [illegible] initial period hydrogen fuel will only be feasible for commercial vehicles (buses and trucks) because of the trouble and expense of ensuring supplies.

He accuses politicians of continuing to think provincially rather than in a European dimension on transport issues and of failing to draw up scenarios for the future.

He also complains that nothing is being done about pressing present problems such as transit across the Alps.

Instead of waiting for long-term investment projects such as the much-discussed Brenner Tunnel he favours immediate action such as a swifter succession of trains, hybrid locomotives that cut out the need to switch locomotives at frontiers and a much wider use of low-loader rail facilities for motor vehicles.

The Munich forum made it clear that the railway network is best suited to arrive at a solution to European transport problems. There is a railway revival throughout Europe.

High-speed trains are in use in Britain, France and Sweden. A new rail concept is under development in Austria. Italy is working on an ambitious high-speed rail programme and Switzerland's Rail 2000 system will link intercity, express and through trains with coach services.

From 1990 hourly rail services will [illegible] in the Federal Republic of Germany at speeds of up to 250kph.

The aim, said MBB's Dr Christian R. Guenther, must wherever possible be to link distances of up to 600km in three to four hours.

At the same time national rail networks must be combined with existing civil aviation services. Transferring from road to rail transport must also be simplified.

Dr Guenther could even imagine seasonal variations in rail facilities to ensure passenger comfort, with the emphasis on light and airy carriages in summer and on warmth and comfort in winter.

En-route entertainment must make full use of all that show business has to offer, while businessmen must be provided with comprehensive secretarial facilities and other travellers with a wider range of services of all kinds.

European endeavours must aim, in the final analysis, at ensuring door-to-door service linking rail travel and other modes of transport. The railways must also cater for individual requirements.

Rainer Goetz of the Berlin Local Transport Study Society found it hard to believe that the motor-car was still the mainstay of mobility in modern industrial society.

He called on politicians to stop seeing local transport as merely a facility for marginal social and automotive groups. They must make public transport more attractive.

It must be made more attractive for both young and old: for young people keen to become car-owners and for older people keen, for the sake of convenience, to carry on driving.

The car is not going to be upstaged in a hurry, however. A microelectronics research programme, Prometheus, sponsored by 14 European carmakers is working on a new-look motor vehicle.

The aim of project research by 270 scientists is to devise a car that thinks for itself, a car capable of ignoring the driver and safely ensuring the right response in an emergency, such as fog and ice or at intersections or while overtaking.

Fridolin Engelfried

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 17 September 1987)

Bonn hesitates as Ariane makes comeback

DIE WELT

The successful launching of an Ariane 3 carrier rocket from Kourou, French Guiana, has brought Europe back to the fore in the satellite business.

After a succession of failures and a spectacularly aborted launching in May 1986 the 19th launching of the European rocket was a complete success at the second attempt.

Sixteen minutes after take-off the rocket put its two satellites, Australia's Aussat K3 and the European ECS-4, into orbit.

In November an Ariane is to launch another German satellite, TV-SAT, and put it into a geostationary orbit.

Ariane has thus regained its status as the West's only operational satellite launcher vehicle, a status it held for four months after the January 1986 Challenger catastrophe.

But the competition has grown tougher. Both Moscow and Peking offer bargain basement prices to launch satellites on board their Proton and Long March carrier rockets.

The Bonn government has postponed major decisions on space research and development that were due to be taken in the next 10 days, according to a reply to a parliamentary question tabled by the Greens.

A decision must be reached on three major Western European space projects, on their finances and on a rearrangement of German space research activities.

In effect Bonn must arrive at decisions that will commit it on space research policy for the next decade or two and involve investment expenditure of at least DM25bn.

The three European projects are the Ariane 5, the Columbus spacelab and the Hermes shuttle.

From the mid-1990s the Ariane 5 will, if all goes well, launch payloads of up to 20 tonnes. The Columbus is planned as a firm feature of the proposed US space station.

Ariane 5, Columbus and the European space shuttle, which between them

Continued on page 13

■ THE ARTS

Newspaper rivalry lends respectability to graffiti

Hamburg commuter rolling stock is getting a burst of colour. Carriages on the underground railway system and some of the city's buses are being painted by spraycan graffiti artists sponsored by two newspapers. Morgenpost, a shrill tabloid owned by Gruner + Jahr, has hired a team of women to paint the trains; its rival, Bild-Zeitung, an equally shrill broadsheet owned by the Springer group, has got schoolchildren and scout groups to paint the buses. Looking behind the paint to get at the story is Karlheinz Schmidt, writing in Die Zeit, an unshrill broadsheet owned neither by Gruner + Jahr nor by Springer.

Three years ago, in a venture that was as spectacular as it was absurd, the pop magazine *Wiener* hired two New York spraycan artists to decorate a railway carriage in the Austrian capital with graffiti.

That used to be regarded as vandalism: this time it was legal — but more decorative than authentic.

Graffiti, the spirit of the age sprayed boldly from a can, cannot simply be transplanted. Once they are transferred to the bright lights of publicity or to private art galleries, artists who paint underground train carriages lose more than anonymity.

Their messages usually containing radical views are reduced to harmless bourgeois aestheticism. It is graffiti for domestic use.

The *Morgenpost*, a Hamburg newspaper owned by Gruner + Jahr wants both to steal a march on the city's rival Springer Group newspapers and also to be taken seriously on art.

So it decided to kill two birds with one stone by launching an advertising campaign — by painting train carriages. It was soon followed by Springer's *Bild-Zeitung*, which has gone for the city's buses.

Morgenpost hired neither self-taught spraycan artists nor college-trained trendies to do the painting. Its artists are all women. It was a controversial decision. Exhibition organiser Peter Ruthenberg, whose idea it was, says women are underrepresented in art in the public sector. To redress the balance is nothing if not fair!

The first "art trains" have now added a splash of colour to the city's U-bahn network. A funfair was held to mark the handover of the first 36 carriages to the travelling public.

Twenty-one women artists from 11 cities are transforming 55 carriages into works of art on wheels.

They include fairly well-known artists such as Renate Anger from Berlin, Bettina Semmer from Hamburg and two-time Kassel Documenta award-winner Jenny Holzer from New York.

Then there are talented newcomers or relative unknowns such as Gudrun Differenz from Frankfurt, Eva Ohlow from Cologne and Bente Spalthoff from Berlin.



Commuting colours. Hamburg U-Bahn carriage being decorated. (Photo: Gröning)

"What we want," *Morgenpost* editor Wolfgang Clement announced when the art show on wheels was launched, "is to provide a view of work by contemporary women artists."

There were few better opportunities of transposing art from the museum to everyday life than to use the coachwork of commuter trains.

He could hardly have then known that his newspaper's art trains were to feature virtually every aspect and variety of contemporary art. Hardly a technique, a style or an idea now seems to be missing.

Figurative motifs by Ursel Frank from Frankfurt roll alongside ornamental work by Sabina Wörner from Düsseldorf.

Informal streams of colour poured by Elsbeth Arlt from Flensburg can be seen alongside the golden bathtub into which Carola Scheil from Berlin has transformed her carriages.

At times more is tested than the powers of imagination of Hamburg commuters. Their tolerance is tested by "fast food artists" Renate Kirchheim and Monika Ratering from Bremen.

They have joined forces to decorate their carriages with juicy, larger-than-life hamburgers.

The brilliant red ketchup and soggy hamburger rolls are draped round the carriage windows, transforming the passengers inside into the pure beef filling.

Some might call this good, clean fun. Others might see it as effrontery. It certainly falls not far short of poor taste and is, fortunately, the exception.

Censorship has happened, but is was accidental is no more.

The Hamburg city transport department, which runs the trains and hires out advertising panels on the rolling stock, was blissfully unaware of the existence of action art and "happenings."

Its officials had to be given a briefing in modern art history before the women artists were allowed to get back to work with paint and brush.

Contemporary art on wheels is to roll round Hamburg for a year, adding colour and providing food for thought.

Some carriages are painted in painstaking detail, others in grand gestures of the brush. All are art prescribed in what Peter Ruthenberg calls homoeopathically infinitesimal doses.

This is a reference to the fact that trains only stop for a minute or so, so travellers get only a glimpse of each carriage. Yet the idea may catch on.

Other art-minded Hamburg firms keen to combine image-boosting and art promotion could do worse than follow suit. The city's U-Bahn, or subway, has a further 700 carriages for hire. *Bild-Zeitung*, the Springer paper, has been one of the first to jump on the *Morgenpost* bandwaggon.

Bild-Zeitung has enlisted the services of school classes and scout *packs to decorate* 15 articulated buses with well-known Hamburg motifs.

It doesn't much matter how they go about it. The point of the exercise — advertising apart — is that the buses have a bright and cheerful look.

This is to be ensured by a panel of public figures who will judge all entries. Ingo von Münch, Hamburg's new arts senator, clearly has no qualms about brushing up his art sense by kind permission of the Axel Springer AG.

He is reported as saying: "I'll be delighted to serve on the jury."

The *Morgenpost* prefers to rely on Ruthenberg, an art expert who makes a point of having selected his artists without the supervision or interference of an advisory panel or a jury.

He had to use the gift of the gab, having nothing to offer his artists other than a DM500 fee and DM32 a day in expenses.

Editor Clement says the U-Bahn advertising space will cost "well under DM1m." So the transport department can congratulate itself on this windfall, whereas the artists are unlikely to catch more than a cold in the damp and draughty locomotive sheds and sidings.

What, one wonders, is fair about that? Ralf Bartoleit of *DPA*, the Hamburg-based Deutsche Presse Agentur sees some consolation for the 21 artists. As a "reward" for their hard work, he writes, they will share an art show in the city's Kampnagel-Fabrik.

Frankfurt artist Petra Falk, who refused to work free of charge and preferred not to take part [illegible] has long realised what is far from a matter of course in modern society.

"Art work is work," she says, "with no ifs or buts."

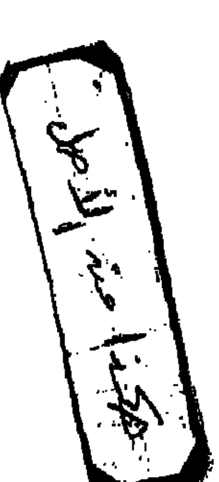
That is a point which is surely more deserving of consideration than pointless discussion about trains, or "men's toys," as Clement puts it, being painted by women.

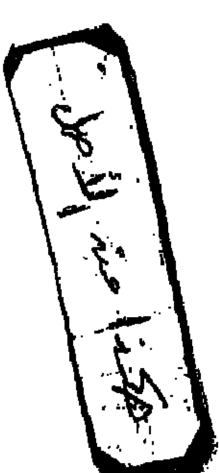
"Whether the envisaged productive friction between a traditional media world and women's art is a reality or was merely a hare-brained idea," writes Ruthenberg in his dossier, "will be seen when all the carriages have been painted."

So the project can be reviewed in October. Fair enough! Or is it?

Karlheinz Schmidt

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 18 September 1987)





■ FILMS

German director reads a book and goes deep into America's south

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

First Wim Wenders went to the United States. Then Volker *Tin Drum* Schlöndorff followed. He has now been searching for material for two and a half years.

His first film in America was Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, the classic story of Willy Loman, a lower middle class failure who becomes a victim of the American Dream.

Schlöndorff's new film, *A Gathering of Old Men*, is set in the deep south of Scarlett O'Hara country, but it is a modern setting.

As an art form cinema tends more than most to feed off myths, or myths in the form of anti-myths. And it's precisely at the point where the American Dream runs up against reality that Schlöndorff seems to find his material. Where the illusion ends is where the American nightmare is at its most vivid.

In hardly any other part of the States are the American dream and nightmare so interwoven as in the south. Between the flowering magnolia trees and sugarcane plantations, everyone is well aware of his neighbour and the colour of his skin. The destiny of people is on show for all to see, concealed by a veil of clouded perception.

Against this background [illegible]ing south, Schlöndorff has turned once again to a literary source: the 1983 book of the same name by Ernest J. Gaines, a black from Louisiana.

It deals with the Deep South today and is considered to be one of the outstanding books on race-relations in the south. Its theme is the dream of solidarity among blacks and the intricacy of compulsory racial roles and of unspoken understandings.This time, Schlöndorff has kept closely to the text. The book has just been translated into German.

Schlöndorff once said that a film comes into being on location. And this is no less true for a *A Gathering of Old Men*. The author helped him to pick out the locations and, together with excellent camera work, Schlöndorff was able to create a convincing atmosphere.

He succeeds in capturing the humidity of Louisiana where time goes by slowly and one wishes that one could dwell longer on all the personalities that flow by.

In one scene, the camera hovers over Mathu's cabin and then drifts slowly with a pan-shot away over the fields to a graveyard and then onto a river stressing that which is the south of such importance. The land on which they work.

The story is about the shooting of a white by a black. Schlöndorff tells us right at the beginning who did it. A black called Charlie, on the run from Beau, a white landlord farmer, shoots him dead in self-defence before the cabin of a black sharecropper called Mathu.

Candy, a young plantation owner, calls together 17 other old blacks to protect Mathu from being lynched by whites. She believes he is the only one courageous enough to have done it.

Candy succeeds in mobilising the old black men into revolting. Something that they have wanted to do all their lives.

Richard Widmark plays sheriff Maple, the investigator of the shooting. To his surprise he finds himself confronted by 18 proud old blacks with nothing else to lose. They all claim responsibility for the deed and in doing so take a stand for the first time in their lives white intimidation and violence.

But times have changed since Scarlett O'Hara's day. Even sheriff Maple, who sees through the conspiracy, would like to avoid bloodshed. Even Beau's brother, who organises inter-racial football matches to promote racial harmony, wants the case settled in the courts rather than by a lynching.

The whites themselves are also portrayed as victims. They have the burden of guilt and shame on their shoulders and live in the shadow of class prejudices among themselves. In the south of the eighties most of the young people have already left to go somewhere else.

His film is one of dialogues, a staging of words. Maple spends a day interrogating the men who are so awkwardly trying out their revolt. Those that have the chance to speak also speak with their faces, using frugally calculated mime and gestures.

All the old men tell the sheriff that they individually shot Beau. But what they really mean is that they should have done it a long time ago when they were younger.

Their faint-hearted revolt, which Gaines calls more a gathering than a revolt is only undertaken give them back their dignity. And in order to get this it meant also freeing themselves from the guardianship of their well meaning patroness.

The men wean themselves off the young woman's support and decide to make their own decisions.

The ending is a surprise. The negotiations seem to be going on for ever when suddenly Charlie gives himself up to the police. Luke Will, the leader of the whites tries to press ahead with a lynching anyway.

A shoot out takes place. But unlike the book in which Charlie and Luke Will are also shot, Schlöndorff uses a happy ending with the old men dancing for joy. Maybe he felt the book version was too depressing and chose instead to give a Hollywood ending. Candy the white liberal plantation owner ends up having a relationship with Lou Dimes, a journalist reporting the case. The actors carry the film, especially the performances of Louis Gosset jr. as Mathu and Richard Widmark. It's a film about change in the south which, like that in the film, is slow. It's very much a European film and a very American theme.

Angelika Ohland

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 20 September 1987)



Uprising or just a gathering? Schlöndorff's *A Gathering of old Men*. (Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

Return of Fritz Lang and the idea of the doppel-gänger

Berlin's notorious fame has been recorded on film like a Prussian mind in one of Schinkel's buildings.

Three films by Fritz Lang from the 1920s which were long thought to have been lost have been rediscovered. What a birthday present! (Berlin is this year celebrating its 750th anniversary).

One was found in Brazil and the other in Amsterdam. Both can be seen at the *Berlin and the cinema* exhibition. This is a special contribution from the German Cinematech Foundation to the anniversary.

There was a certain tension in the air at the Gropius-Bau film theatre, a few steps away from the world's most famous wall.

The visitors had come to see Lang's *Kämpfende Herzen*. This was a joint production of Lang's together with Thea von Harbou. Like *Mabuse* a year later, it is very much a picture of the times. The foundation also put on an exciting report about the state of film then and what was being developed.

Everyone knows that the fantastic *genre* was characteristic of German cinema in the 1920s. Films like this tended to make use of the *Doppelgänger* theme. The scum of the underworld who make their deals in low dives are at the same time the well-heeled clients of the best hotels.

Lang applies that with a modern lack of bias. The crime films make way for fairytale like romantic stories. Shadowy doubles become figures who lead double lives or also, as in this film, become unequal brothers.

The main person, the real-estate agent, is a quick-change artist. He is not as cunning as Mabuse.

Who is behind it all? This is famous question in Lang's serialised *Spione* has already been put in *Kämpfende Herzen*. The film is so made that the audience is forced to use his eyes to perceive what is taking place on the screen. At all costs the spectator should avoid being deceived.

Die Vier um die Frau is actually a second title for the film. The film has a certain Harbou-touch. Because the husband is driven by business.

She is the weakest part of the script, which is otherwise built on increasing tension and senseless action liberally provided with elucidations which are provided by one person, are then interrupted and then continued by someone else with the brittleness being stressed by pictures whose animated scene of action and changing focus is underlined.

It's an agitation which stops the audience from immersing in an illusionary tale.

Harakiri, which was directed two years earlier, has none of this. It's a Melo from the mind of the *Madame Chrysantheme* by Pierre Loti, who works with *Madame Butterfly* material.

The point of the film is to show what contact with the West did to Japan. Lang loved exotic subject material in his films. He said it allowed him to use memories which he had acquired while travellin around the world.

It's not the peculiar incongruities, such as Berlin's penetrating omnipresence, or that the actors are made up of

Continued on page 14

Forces struggling in Fritz Lang's *Harakiri*, 1919. (Photo: Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek)

■ MEDICINE

Laboratory fight against parasite which inhabits a tenth of mankind

The author, Renate Ries, is a biologist and journalist. For this article, which investigates research into amoebiasis, a disease affecting huge numbers of people in tropical and sub-tropical countries, she won third prize in a Science Reporter competition run by the Bonn Ministry of Science and Technology.

Entamoeba histolytica is a micro-organism that preys on red blood corpuscles and causes an illness called amoebasis. Dysentery is a symptom.

The amoeba lives as a parasite in the intestines of an estimated 480 million people — every 10th person in the world. Whoever has the amoeba has amoebiasis. But only between 8 and 10 per cent show the symptoms — dysentery.

Dysentery is known in Germany only as a complaint brought back by travellers from tropical and sub-tropical countries. But it is a danger to everybody in those countries.

Julia Walsh of Harvard says at least 40,000 people worldwide died of it in 1981. Richard Guerrant of the University of Virginia says the figure is twice as high. No-one knows for sure. There are no reliable data.

Biology student Claudia Walter, a member of an Osnabrück University team investigating the amoeba, says, "With today's techniques entamoeba histolytica is often either not diagnosed as the culprit or it is suspected of being to blame when it isn't."

She is working on a better diagnostic technique based on a new technology that can make the characteristic features of each and every cell visible.

Her aim is to produce a detailed description of the germ. For comparison she uses non-pathogenic entamoeba, similar micro-organisms that do man no harm.

Originally isolated from reptiles or sewage, they are now bred in test tubes full of brown liquid nutrient.

Entamoeba flourish on a diet of yeast extract, predigested protein, beef serum and 18 vitamins. Unlike entamoeba histolytica, they leave red blood corpuscles alone.

It alone relishes a Dracula diet. A glance through the microscope is sufficient to identify the culprit, which can clearly be seen to digest its diet of red blood corpuscles.

Once identified in a patient's stool, the diagnosis is clear and incontrovertible. The patient is suffering from dysentery.

Its most frequent symptoms are slimy, blood-spattered diarrhoea, inflammation of the intestinal wall and abscesses of the liver.

That is why the rogue amoeba is called histolytica, or tissue-destroying. Instead of making do with intestinal nutrient, it prefers human body cells and blood corpuscles.

It attacks the intestinal wall and penetrates the tissue. It finds its way almost all over the body, leaving a trail of abscesses. If not treated, they usually lead to death.

Infection can be extremely painful — even for the Osnabrück microbiologists. Yet they wear neither masks nor gloves in handling the parasites.

Are they thoughtlessly running a health risk? "The risk of contracting amoebiasis here in the laboratory is virtually zero," says biologist Folker Keller.

He studied the subject before joining the research team two years ago. "Entamoeba is only infectious when surrounded by a thick coat and transformed into a cyst.

"If the cyst is swallowed it will survive the gastric acid and find its way into the intestine, where it sheds its coat and resumes its mobility."

These are facts he checked in scientific literature. "Infectious cysts," he adds, "are only formed in the parasite's natural environment, the intestine. In laboratory conditions it is unable to do so."

So the naked test-tube amoeba can do no harm, whereas they can wreak havoc if they reach the intestine.

In the past it has been difficult to prove their existence there, but a test devised by Claudia Walter has made them easier to spot.

Her new test clearly shows whether the patient has excreted the parasite and whether the stool contains other, non-pathogenic entamoeba.

Suspects are identified by means of a single characteristic identified by molecular specialists: monoclone antibodies that identify alien cells and substances in the amoeba by their individual structure and trigger their removal.

Monoclone antibodies are generated by the descendants of a single cell, are identical and thus all recognise the same structure. In the diagnostic test they discover the rogue cell, attach themselves to it and are coloured.

This colour betrays the invisible invader, which is then identified — although that alone does not prove it is to blame for the patient's diarrhoea.

Most infections the parasite causes are harmless. It attacks its host in only one case in 10. Monoclone antibodies spot aggressive characteristics and identify the "bother boys."

The distinction is important. Fighting harmless entamoeba can do the patient nothing but harm.

These antibodies are not yet readily available. The WHO has declared their development an urgent research task and funds it, but too few scientists are engaged in this research sector.

When doctors and research scientists from all over the world attended the ninth international congress on infectious and parasitic diseases in Munich in July 1986, only two speakers had anything to say about amoebiasis. Each spoke for about 10 minutes.

Renate Ries

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 September 1987)

Trend to hormones instead of drugs to treat cancer

Cancer research is turning increasing to hormone treatment instead of cytostatic, or drug, treatment of malignant tumours. The aim is to harness the body's own defences to fight the disease.

The new approach was one of the many topics talked about at the third international congress on hormones and cancer, in Hamburg.

Attended by over 1,500 specialists, it was the first international cancer congress held in Germany for half a century.

Congress chairman Professor Gerhard Nagel, Göttingen, left no doubt as to the importance of new theories. "Cancer research," he said, "is on the brink of a fascinating turning-point."

It would, he said, be a while before the striking laboratory findings found their way into an effective therapy, but the principle of the new research approach to cancer sounds convincing.

Instead of being treated by radiation and toxins, malignant tumours are to be beaten by the body's own weapons, harnessing anti-hormones to treat hormone-based tumours such as breast cancer.

Medical specialists check the tumour cells for hormone receptors that respond, say, to oestrogen or progesterone.

These receptors can either be blocked by anti-hormones or hormone synthesis can be restricted or brought to a halt. Tumour growth can thus be braked.

In the past women cancer patients have had ovaries and even pituitary glands removed to interrupt the hormone influx. Given what is now known about hormone treatment, this is seldom necessary.

Effective hormone therapy, said Professor Heinrich Maass, Hamburg, presupposed the existence of hormone receptors.

Hamburg experience had shown hormone treatment to be feasible for about half the women over 50 whose breast cancer had already spread to the lymph glands in the armpit.

Professor Kurt Possinger, Munich, complained that many doctors prescribed hormone treatment without receptor checks. That was no substitute for chemotherapy.

Hormone treatment, he said, was neither a harmless alternative nor an alternative with no side-effects to chemotherapy. Far from it:

"Hormones are extremely problematic substances that in some cases can have substantial side-effects, such as depression."

Cancer research in the United States in particular has adopted a new approach, albeit only, as yet, in laboratory and animal experiments.

Professor Marc E. Lippman of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, told the Hamburg congress about initial success in treating cancer with anti-growth substances.

His work was based on the realisation that not only glands and organs produced hormones; cells could also synthesise substances that promote or impede growth.

In this way cancer cells can continue to grow independently of external factors.

In laboratory experiments US cancer research scientists have achieved initial success in treating tumours in mice with anti-growth factors.

The principle makes sound sense. A cell production defect is repaired by means of the appropriate substances — the body's own.

It remains to be seen whether anti-growth substances, as they are called, will lead to the development of a medicine.

Experiments have so far been limited to laboratory mice and restricted to observation of the effect of a negative growth factor.

Normal and cancerous growth involve an abundance of substances. No-one knows how substances affect the recipient, particularly the body as a whole, so scientists advise against premature euphoria.

Yet even though comprehensive detailed research has [illegible] the new concept has reached the stage at which initial clinical trials may begin in, say, six months or so.

The initial aim will be test the toxicity of the new-found substances. Only then can the effect of anti-growth factors be probed.

The body might, for instance, fail entirely to respond to the special substance or, alternatively, to circumvent its effect.

Besides, what side-effects does it have in high doses?

Richard Peto, Oxford, damped scientific optimism by noting that tried and trusted treatments must not be abandoned until new methods had been definitely shown to be better.

Gisela Schütte

(Die Welt, Bonn, 10 September 1987)

Extreme-right campaign

Continued from page 3

latest annual report of the Bavarian *Verfassungsschutz*, the government agency that monitors espionage and political extremism, but more aggressive in how it voices its views.

The DVU is also said to seek to qualify German guilt by either relativising the Nazi era or denying its excesses.

It is further said to encourage racially motivated prejudice against foreigners and to slander democratic institutions and their representatives.

It has an estimated 12,000 members nationwide. Regional leaders are not elected; they are appointed by DVU leader Gerhard Frey.

The NPD, which had eight MPs in Bremen from 1967 to 1971, welcomed the electoral victory of the *Liste D* and said it would now be concentrating on the March 1988 Baden-Württemberg state assembly polls.

In 1968 the NPD polled 9.8 per cent in Baden-Württemberg and had 12 assemblymen in Stuttgart for a four-year period.

The NPD was founded in 1964 and peaked between 1966 and 1969 when its candidates were elected to seven of the 11 state assemblies.

In the late 1960s it benefited strongly from protest voters dissatisfied with the 1966-69 Grand Coalition of Christian and Social Democrats and from the first major recession in the Federal Republic's history.

In the 1969 general election it polled 1.4 million votes, or 4.3 per cent, and thus failed to make the five per cent minimum.

In subsequent state assembly elections the NPD lost all seats previously gained.

dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 15 September 1987)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

New insulation material 'key to getting rid of damp'



Glass, steel and concrete may soon be replaced by transparent insulated sheeting as a facing for outer walls, a Berlin congress was told.

The new material was said to save substantially on heating bills and to offset the disadvantages of existing outer wall facing materials.

These claims are made in a survey by the Fraunhofer Construction Physics Institute, Stuttgart, the findings of which were outlined to a Berlin congress on outside walls.

The congress dealt at length with structural damage due to indoor damp.

Over a three-year research period scientists devised insulated sheeting consisting of transparent glass fibre and acrylic foam.

It harnesses sunlight as a source of heat and provides the usual insulating features of conventional mineral fibre, the Stuttgart institute's Professor Karl Gertis told the conference.

Fixed to the outside wall, the transparent sheeting lets sunlight through unhindered. It does so very much in keeping with the hothouse principle, transforming the light that reaches the wall inside into long-wave heat.

This heats the brickwork to temperatures of up to 70° C, making outer walls perceptibly warmer than indoor air. They thus function as an auxiliary heater and cut back the fuel or power consumption of the main heating system.

Experiments in Stuttgart have shown this "solar oven" effect even to function on north-facing walls where diffuse light is all that can pass through the panelling.

The heat thus generated, he told the congress, is still sufficient to prevent any heat loss whatever from within.

In summer a fully-clad south-facing wall generates too much heat, so the next stage of the project will aim at supplying greater detail on the energy-saving effect and testing sunshade techniques as a precaution against overheating.

These experiments will include Venetian blinds that adjust automatically to varying degrees of sunlight intensity.

Another system that is under development is based on a principle similar to that of self-tinting sunglasses, with sheeting clad in a phototropic surface layer.

The lighter it is, the darker this layer turns, progressively reducing the amount of light that is let through.

Winter sunlight could thus be harnessed entirely, while summer sun would be kept at bay to some extent.

The advantages of transparent facing are better energy utilisation and use of the properties of concrete.

Concrete is a poor heat conductor and lets through very little steam, which is why it can often only be used in housing when combined with costly and complicated extra arrangements.

The new facing material could make concrete as universally usable as other building materials with properties better suited to ensuring comfortable living conditions indoors.

Physicists are hopeful the new insulating technique will help to solve what in recent years has become an increasing problem with outer walls.

Double-glazing cuts heating bills but dry air and a growing number of pot plants indoors have led to a substantial increase in mildew on inside walls.

It starts with pinhead-sized black dots that grow in size and number and are either black or dark green. They flourish only when humidity is high.

If rooms aren't aired properly, condensation from the pot plants, from the sink or the shower bath collects where outside walls are coldest.

This mildew can be a serious health hazard for the lungs and respiratory tract.

Airing is essential, but improved exterior insulation at "black spots" would be an invaluable precaution.

Research scientists say mechanical ventilation of outside walls is another possibility. That would require a space between the transparent sheeting and the brickwork from which hot air could be extracted and used, for instance, to heat the cellar.

Richard Schwalbe

(Die Welt, Bonn, 22 September 1987)

Process claims to convert plastic into oil

A way of converting waste plastic into high-grade oil has been developed by a Cologne firm.

Union Rheinische Braunkohlen Kraftstoff AG says the process can produce 800 kilograms of oil for every tonne of plastic.

Project spokesman Dr Joachim Korff says that oil produced this way is more expensive than buying it from out of the ground but, he says, crude oil will not always be cheap.

If the process turns out to be as successful as hoped, it will be a significant step towards getting rid of plastic waste. Plastic has transformed everyday life, making it more colourful and less trouble — but it is causing serious waste-disposal problems.

There is an estimated three million tonnes of plastic waste a year in West Germany, half of it household waste.

In many areas glass and metal are separated and recycled, while chemicals are dumped separately or incinerated.

Dr Korff says: "We have long years of experience with hydration, or liquefaction, of brown coal at our refinery. This know-how can be modified for use in processing plastic waste."

Demonstration facilities in the Cologne research laboratories and at the technical centre show what could lie ahead.

A gaily-coloured mixture of shredded plastic waste is filled into a container and chemists subject the contents to high pressure, high temperatures and hydrogen.

The molecular structures of the waste are transformed and it can then be recycled into its raw material, crude oil.

"As we can recycle up to 80 per cent of the waste," Dr Korff says, "we can practically produce up to 800kg of oil from a tonne of plastic."

[illegible] mineral additives to the raw material.

This advanced hydration process, classified by the German Patent Office as one of the most important recent inventions, is a recycling technique that evidently bridges a gap in waste processing.

Experiments at the refinery have shown that the pilot plant can be fed with virtually any kind of plastic or rubber waste: a threadbare piece of synthetic carpet, lengths of plastic cable, old plastic buckets, used car tyres or plastic cutlery.

All are converted into an oil similar to crude except that it contains more high-grade ingredients.

Press officer Christian Anschütz says: "The process developed in Wesseling can help the environment in two ways.

"It will not only help to clear gigantic garbage tips but also to destroy problematic synthetic materials such as PVC waste, converting them into harmless salts and chlorine-free oils."

The results of laboratory trials have prompted the management to commission a larger pilot plant that is to be built with financial backing from the Federal Research and Technology Minister.

Chemist Dr Dagmar Mertens-Gottselig says that by the end of the century a large-scale facility may be in use that processes 100,000 tonnes of waste plastic a year.

That would correspond to the waste output and disposal requirements of six cities with a population of one million each.

Oil recycled from rubber and plastic is naturally more expensive than black gold gushing from a well but, as Dr Korff points out, "waste disposal costs are spiralling and crude oil prices will not be in the doldrums for ever.

"Once the prices are right we will one day be paid simply to dispose of plastic waste," he feels.

Georg P. Rainer

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 September 1987)

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will cost an estimated DM25bn, are to be developed by Esa, the European Space Agency.

Esa, with an annual budget of about DM3bn, is also engaged in a comprehensive unmanned research programme and has drawn up plans until the end of the century that will cost about DM60bn in all.

The Federal Republic of Germany would be expected to foot roughly 30 per cent of the bill, so when national space research spending is borne in mind Bonn will need to invest at least DM25bn by the year 2000. The Bonn coalition plans to arrive at a decision next month. It stressed in its parliamentary reply that "German participation in space research and the development of space technology is essential and justifiable on both economic and technological and scientific and social grounds."

Bonn will thus agree in principle to join the three large-scale Esa projects, but possibly not in keeping with the present schedule and within the proposed cost framework.

Anatol Johansen

(Die Welt, Bonn, 17 September 1987)

■ HORIZONS

Honeymoon at 80 a recipe for vitality

Saarbrücker Zeitung

Hans Kopp sets the breakfast table, goes shopping, and cooks the lobster or Berliner Buletten (a type of meatball). His devotion to his wife would make you think Hans and Maria are newly married.

And so they are. At 81. Last year, they were the oldest couple to get married in West Germany.

It is a trend. More and more young people are living together without bothering to get married while more older people, either widowed or never married, are getting married.

In 1984, the number of marriages where one or more partners were over 60 was up 12 per cent on the previous year: there were 1,115 men were between 65 and 70 and 2,574 over 70. There were 2,830 women between 60 and 65 and 1,196 over 65. One 65-year-old woman married a 29-year-old man.

Hans Kopp first met Maria Miesen when he and his first wife were in Lisbon 22 years ago. He was a civil servant responsible for protocol and culinary matters at the West German Embassy in Lisbon and Frau Miesen also worked at the Embassy. The Kopp couple maintained contact with Frau Miesen and met her regularly.

Hans Kopp says that when his wife died two years ago, his wife told him to marry Maria. On 4 November last year, they were married in a civil ceremony in Godesberg. Their honeymoon was spent in the groom's home town of Herbrechtingen, in Baden-Württemberg about 30 miles from Ulm, where they were married again in a church ceremony by a Franciscan priest. It was Maria Kopp's first marriage. "Nobody wanted me," jokes this witty, self-confident woman. They admit to differences of opinion, but say life would be boring without them.





A fair Kopp. Hans and Maria Kopp at home.

(Photo: Barbara Frandsen)

Hans Kopp is a cavalier of the old school. He secretly leaves pralines in her cupboard and surprises her with cordon bleu meals. She leaves the kitchen entirely to him, she says. He reads the newspaper to her because her eyesight is bad.

They have no money problems and each contributes 500 marks a month for groceries so that, when he goes shopping, he doesn't have to worry about cost. Quality is what is important.

Geriatric experts say that old people need attention, recognition and tenderness. Hans and Maria Kopp have managed it. For others it is not so easy. Loneliness is for some old people too much to take, writes Simone de Beauvoir.

She says that in France, suicide among old people comprises three quarters of all suicides. Up to 55 years, the rate was 51 suicides per 100,000 of the population; over 55 it climbed to 158 per 100,000. De Beauvoir says in her book, *Das Alter*, that society should take a more human attitude towards old people.

The fact is that it is not so easy for most old people to marry like Hans and Maria Kopp did. In most cases the children oppose it, although the motive is not as self-interested as might be thought. The main reason is a social taboo, that getting married again just isn't done.

Gertrud Janssen has been the head of an old people's home in Bonn since 1978. She says she is not occasionally asked if mother or father has not become a little "disoriented" because he or she is talking about getting married again.

She says with regret that the old taboo is still there. It is often a matter of "what will the friends and relatives say?"

The late Simone de Beauvoir said in her book that society forces the great majority of old people to such a low quality of life that the words "old" and "poor" mean just about the same thing.

She said retirement offers old people no new opportunities; at that very time when a person is freed from the pressures of a working life, the means for using leisure constructively is withdrawn.

"The pensioner is sentenced to vegetate in loneliness and boredom, a good-for-nothing."

Frau Janssen knows from many years of experience that old people are mentally and physically better off when they can form friendships, even when they are in a home. For that reason, she welcomes the trend towards marriage in old age.

She also knows, however, that friendships are often prevented and that the theme of special friendships in a home aften come up against taboos. "It is (usually) avoided, people don't talk about it and it is not practised — unfortunately."

She quotes an example in her home, which has 120 old people. There were two cases of people forming close relationships. At first, the reaction in the home was of agitation.

But things calmed down and both couples are now fully accepted.

Barbara Frandsen

(Saarbrucker Zeitung, 17 September 1987)



Back to school for a 106-year-old. Peter Schmitt, the oldest man in the Saar, returns to the school at Mettlach-Orscholz which he first attended a century ago. The children presented him with a schoolbag full of schnaps and cigarettes.

(Photo: Traudl Brenner)

Continued from page 11

every nationality except Japanese, or that the actors fail to reach those standards of elegance which the Japanese would.

What is does lack is a disciplined narration and a sharp and precise application of cinematic techniques. And yet this is where Lang's strength usually is.

There is really only one surprise. Certain use of the camera which he later used in later films turn up here for the first time. He uses inside-shots which look outwards as a counter-balance to effects of interior space.

Shots such as these are a direct result of the influence of Japanese decor, which in their makeup resemble still-life paintings. Once can see with Ozu a view behind interior rooms which give one the impression of seeing a minuture garden.

In this way Lang confronted the limits of painting and the dimensions of film.

It would appear that with the help of Schiele and Klimt, Lang found his way to film-making via painting.

Hopefully the money which has been raised the Berlin anninversary will last out to help restore a third discovered film by Lang, *Das Wandernde Bild*, which was also discovered in Brazil. It has a second title, *Madonna im Schnee*

Buñuel, the late Spanish surrealist director, referred to the tendencies of both films in which forces are engaged in internecine struggle against one another, as a joining at the navel. Perhaps another variation of the old doppelgänger theme being brought out by the silver screen.

Frieda Grafe

(Suddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 27 September 1987)



Brass-knuckles granny comes back fighting

KielerNachrichten

A 65-year-old Munich woman has run into a spot of bother over her habit of carrying a set of brass knuckles in her handbag.

The lady, whose name has only been given as Cäcilia L., was caught as she went through the check-in at Munich airport. Brass knuckles are regarded by the law as an offensive weapon. Anyone possessing a set can be charged, convicted and punished.

Cäcilia L.: "I didn't know that. I had so often heard about old people being attacked and robbed and all I wanted to do was protect myself."

Certainly there is no way she could have known that her case would turn into a minor affair of state. The public prosecutor, the attorney-general, the Bavarian Minister of Justice and the petitions committee of the Bavarian assembly have all become involved.

After Cäcilia L. was held at the airport, she was charged and then told by the state prosecution that the case would be closed if she paida fine of 250 marks.

But when this decision was made, she was in hospital and didn't receive the notification. By the time she was home again and had read the mail, it was too late the payment deadline had been and gone.

So Cäcilia L. turned for help to the Bavarian Minister of Justice, Mathilde Berghofer-Weichner, saying she received only a small pension and should not be punished so heavily for what was, after all, an excusable error of judgment.

The minister passed the case to the attorney-general's office and it was passed on further to the state prosecution. Where it was decided to proceed "in the public interest."

The case emerged into the open through the petitions committee of the Bavarian assembly to which Cäcilia now turned. The head of the committee recommended that the prosecution be discontinued. The accused had up until now been a respectable woman and posed no threat to the public.

But justice was not to be swayed. It must remain by its principle that the law must be applied equally to all, regardless if the offender was a pimp or a grandmother. Everybody [illegible] court and face the consequences.

But Cäcilia L. was not about to give up, either. She went on the attack and laid a complaint against the officers who laid the prosecution in the first place.

Now the case has generated greater public interest than the public prosecution ever expected.

But, in the future, whatever her fate at the hands of a court of law, Cäcilia L. will not have to do without some weapon to defend herself with in an emergency.

She will, for example, be able to use a hat pin. These can inflict severe damage on an attacker but have the advantage of not being regarded as an offensive weapon.

W.P.Schaefer

(Kieler Nachrichten, 9 September 1987)

■ FRONTIERS

Study of urban poor hits at planned spending cuts



DIE WELT

Plans by the Essen city administration to cut back spending on social welfare have come under criticism from one of the planning department's sociologists.

The city is short of cash and is planning cuts, even in already hard-hit areas, in an effort to balance the books.

Sabine Reicherzt went out to find out more about urban poverty in general and that in Essen in particular.

She discovered signs usually associated with areas of unemployment. She found customers in pubs in the early morning, violence at youth centres and racist slogans on walls.

But the growing poverty itself wasn't noticeable at first glance. People were not marching in indignation in the streets. Instead they tended to look upon poverty and unemployment as signs of personal failings and kept the fact to themselves or within their families.

Frau Reichertz's findings have drawn a lot of attention.She has put in black and white what she feels to be blatantly obvious.She believes that poverty perpetuates itself and criticises plans to cut back social benefits.

She says,"material poverty brings about a plunge down the social ladder."

Particularly in the traditional working class districts in the north end of the city, the unemployed have tended to be concentrated together.This kind of planning has come in for criticism from Sabina Reicherzt. She feels it has played a role in perpetuating a ghetto outlook amongst the unemployed.

The city's research into poverty has drawn criticism as well as praise. Caritas, the charity, refused to comment on a row which broke out over its conclusions. We're not saying anything, it said. "This study has already done Essen enough damage."

The city administration believes that if poverty is to be beaten in the long term, awareness about the causes of social problems needs to be raised.

One of the main causes which the study pointed a finger at is unemployment, which is growing, and the resultant dependency on social welfare.

In March 1986 32,802 people in Essen were on welfare. Already this year it has climbed to 38,363. It now turns out growth in claims for assistance are those which are already burdened with the highest amount of claims.

An examination of 50 areas of the city showed that 21 had figures which were above average. With the exception of one area they all formed together a block in the north, north-east and east of the community.

The district of Altenessen, where 52,000 people live, is one example. More that 10 per cent, 5,900, live on social welfare.

Friedhelm Bussfeld, head of the local social welfare department, said, "Twenty years ago it was a case of old people who couldn't get by on their low old-age pensions. But now it's able young people whose unemployment benefit is exhausted who are coming to us."

A family with trwo children of say, 7 and 11, have to make do with DM1,174 a month. In addition it receives rent and heating allowances.

"My own experience has shown me that the children are usually the victims," says Bussfeld. The financial difficulties lead, he added, "to rows in the family, and at sometime the marriage breaks down. The mother then ends up coming to us with her children."

Bussfeld has to deal with about 400 new cases every year. The accumulation of social problems such as financial ones, create difficulties for families which would otherwise have remained intact.

In his opinion it's very difficult to create residential areas for large families, in which many families with social problems can be settled. But this is exactly what has happened in Altenessen and is supposed to take place again.

He dreads to think what it will be like in two years time. For it is intended to build 700 new flats on an old industrial estate. He estimates that at least a third of the residents will end up at his office.

What Altessen needs is jobs, he said. "But not the highly sophisticated type, but those that correspond to the district's level of education and training, which is below that in the south side of the city."

Frau Reichertz agrees. She points out that in order to escape social inequality, the authorities need to improve the local surroundings, the condition of the [illegible] infrastructure and to bring back the local culture which has since disappeared.

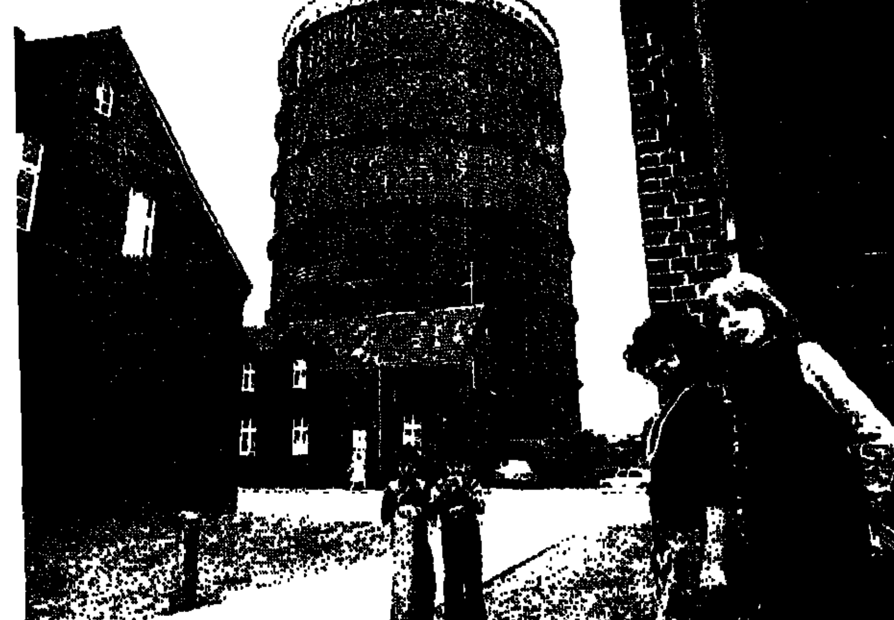
But by shrugging her shoulders she acknowledges that she is well aware that the city's financial situation more or less rules out such plans.

The city has a budget deficit of DM135m, which has forced cut backs all round. City spokesman Ulrich Weinstock has complained that the communal self administration is gradually being run ad adsurdum.

He has calculated that the cost of the youth and social departments will cost the city about DM536m.

If one adds the personnel costs to that then more than half of the overall budget of DM2.4bn has already been reached.

In 1963 Essen spent only DM22m on social welfare payments. By 1986 this had climbed to DM263.7m. Since last year the city has lost about DM300m in turnover.



Better times around the corner. But which corner?

(Photo: Sven Simon)

It lost DM145m in income from trading tax, DM21m from agriculture and new proposals on taxation are threatening it with further losses of DM38.5m

The city is now being forced to plan more cuts in all ready hard hit areas. It is now thinking about making more cuts in areas like kindergartens.

Most people believe none should be closed.

And even a mere examination of the possibilities has led to protests by fathers and mothers at the town hall. They object to the degrading of kindergartens into "detention centres."

On first inspection the kindergarten problem in Essen is not so bad. The law says that facilities should cover the needs of at least 75 per cent of the population. [illegible]

But apart from the fact that kindergartens have long waiting lists many districts are being run badly. Kanternberg on the north side is an example. There are places for 408 children — 44 places fewer than laid down in education department regulations.

Michael Preis, who works on a social project for foreigners and Germans, has fears that plans to build new nurseries will now be scrapped.

Heinrich Bohrenkämper, who is working on the same project, says that the further cuts would be intolerable. But the teachers believe that fears that the north side will start having street riots and demonstrations like Kreuzberg in Berlin, are ill founded.

"People here, he says, "tend to be apathetic rather than aggresive."

Although the attitude to unemployment has changed, the project leaders point out, that the problem of unemployment will be dealt with primarily in the family, if it's going to be at all.

The goal of the project is to give people a feeling of community. But since 23 per cent of the residents are immigrants, this has not been easy.

In the beginning it led to enormous conflicts. It took four years before the residents were able to mix casually with each other.

The many sided offer at the "Holzhaus Beisen", named after a place in Katenburg, has given people the feeling that they can share their problems with others.

The project consists of more than help programms but also embraces entertainment, creativity and learning aids. People are more prepared now to *talk with others and to accept help from* them. The immigrant community is becoming steadily more active. It's noticeable that in comparision to previous years more women are taking the initiative in tackling problems in the family.

Peter Schüle is responsible for coordinating the work with foreign immigrants. He found out that unemployment among immigrants is mainly a teenage problem. They usually do not have the necessary qualifications or training possibilities.

Therefore the promoting of economic development is the key idea at the town hall now. Local enterprises should be enticed into staying and the place made attractive to new ones.

According to Weinstock, the city spokesman, between 1983 and 1986, 21 hectares of land could have been sold for commercial purposes. This could have created 1481 new jobs and secured 3712 existing ones. But in the end DM140m' worth of investment was created.

This year 15 hectares of land have been sold. This has created 2100 jobs and investments of DM65m. Weinstock would like to able to more in this field. But the department is running into financial restrictions.

The federation and the state are now being called upon to reform the way local government is financed. All the same Weinstock is convinced of the study's usefulness. After all it does help to establish how much leeway he has. Apart from that, existing plans have to checked anyway and new ones drawn up to account for adjustments.

Admittedly all this is no solution. But what was it that the study said? If local government cuts back on its services they will only make problems worse. Lack of assistance hits the weakest members of society the hardest. This only makes the poor even poorer.

Martina Schlingmann

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 September 1987)